

Teton Interagency Fire

Bridger-Teton National Forest
National Elk Refuge
Grand Teton National Park & John
D. Rockefeller Jr. Memorial Parkway



2019 Type 3, 4 & 5 Incident Commander Delegation of Authority and Expectations for all Firefighting Personnel

Initial response to any fire should be based on implementation of land management objectives, while applying risk management principles in consultation with the Line Officer and Duty Officer. IC's shall understand Line Officer and Fire Management Officer's intent, and assure that assigned fire personnel understand this intent. IC's and assigned personnel should continually assess the effectiveness of strategies and tactics and to Stop, Think, and Talk about strategies and tactics that are not meeting leaders intent and risk management/safety mitigations.

Our Intent is to engage you all in discussions about acceptable levels of risk. The management of wildland fires is an inherently risky endeavor that takes place in an environment ripe with objective hazards. Undertaking any operations in steep, rocky terrain; all aspects of weather conditions (cold, wet, hot, windy, stormy); in forest fuels with standing dead trees; working on, under, and near aviation operations; extended drive times; long hours; two weeks without days off all contribute to a hazardous environment. Why would we put ourselves here? It must be because we have determined that after assessing these risks and applying mitigations, we have accepted the residual level of risk. There will still be risk.

Our goal is to have a common understanding of what level of residual risk is acceptable based upon the values determined to be at risk. This is what we mean when we speak of sharing risk. Your risk analysis should carefully consider the severity, probability, and exposure components of all identified hazards. Use the Risk Management protocols outlined in the IRPG to help you and your crew in these active discussions. Higher levels of residual risk are acceptable commensurate with the "values" identified in values at risk. To put it simply, human life has a higher value to us than a stand of trees. That being said, we still manage fires burning in a stand of trees – however our decisions to accept risk after applying mitigations should and need to be different in this scenario.

Of course the difficult decisions lie between these two options. We as Line Officers put a great deal of faith and trust in the experience of all of you. We feel that the best information regarding assessing hazards and determining appropriate mitigations comes from those closest to the operation. Our role is to lead the discussion in setting priorities among values at risk with Duty Officers and ICs.

Additionally we expect:

All firefighters will work in a professional manner to ensure appropriate representation of our agencies. Foster a learning culture and an atmosphere free of discrimination, sexual harassment and other forms of inappropriate behavior.

IC's shall ensure personnel on their incident are only assigned to fireline positions for which they are qualified as certified by their employing agency. Ensure trainees have a qualified trainer.

All incoming resources as well as those already on the fireline receive appropriate briefings. Include an emphasis on safety related to local conditions and any out of the ordinary risks. Implementation of proper food storage policies/procedures.

IC's are responsible to update TIDC and the Duty Officer every morning and afternoon on the status of the incident. Immediate notification to TIDC will be made for any significant changes in fire behavior, conditions and all injuries or accidents.

Utilize the Incident Organizer, conduct After Action Reviews (AARs), complete required agency fire reports.

Protection of life and the safety of the public and emergency responders is the most important objective for every fire. Before Incident Commanders commit personnel they should ask:

- What will we do if someone gets hurt? If so, how do we treat and transport them?
- How long will it take to get them to a hospital?

A blue ink signature of the Forest Supervisor.

USFS, Bridger-Teton National Forest
Forest Supervisor

A blue ink signature of the Refuge Manager.

USF&WS, National Elk Refuge
Refuge Manager

A blue ink signature of the Superintendent.

NPS, Grand Teton National Park &
John D. Rockefeller Jr. Memorial Parkway
Superintendent